



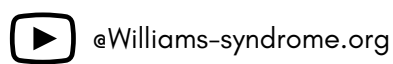
**williamssyndrome**  
ASSOCIATION

# The WSA

The Williams Syndrome Association (WSA) is the most comprehensive resource for people and families living with WS as well as doctors, researchers, therapists and educators. The WSA provides the resources and referrals that families need, and a strong and supportive community with which to connect throughout their child's life.

We create a roadmap to help families navigate challenges – providing answers to common questions, a step-by-step guide, information about WS clinics across the country, and best medical practices for age-appropriate interventions.

Your support of the WSA community is what enables us to provide vital, day-to-day programs. The WSA is a volunteer driven organization. We are parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and legal guardians of people with Williams syndrome. We know first-hand the unique experience of raising and caring for an individual with a disability and we strive to support families along this challenging journey.





[WWW.WILLIAMS-SYNDROME.ORG](http://WWW.WILLIAMS-SYNDROME.ORG)



## WHAT IS WILLIAMS SYNDROME

Williams syndrome (WS) is a rare genetic condition that is present at birth. It is caused by a spontaneous microdeletion on Chromosome 7. It can affect anyone and it is known to occur equally in both males and females and in every culture. Individuals diagnosed with WS can have a vast spectrum of support needs and medical issues, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning challenges. Many individuals with WS have highly social personalities and an affinity for music, and it is not uncommon for individuals to have strong verbal abilities relative to their overall cognitive profile. Go to [williams-syndrome.org](http://williams-syndrome.org) for resources that provide details about the many facets of WS.

## OUR MISSION

The Williams Syndrome Association (WSA) works to advance the interests of all individuals with Williams syndrome throughout their lifespan by providing programming and resources, supporting research, promoting partnerships and connections, and ensuring that the infrastructure of the organization has the capacity to lead our community toward its goals.

## OUR VISION

We want to help ensure that all individuals with Williams syndrome have the support they need throughout their lifespan to live healthy, self-directed, productive, and meaningful lives. We believe that in order to achieve this vision, individuals with Williams syndrome must be fully included in educational, work, and community settings..



### RESOURCES

Developing programs and services to help build strengths & meet challenges from early childhood through adulthood



### AWARENESS

Increasing public awareness and understanding of Williams syndrome by providing information & support to individuals with characteristics of Williams syndrome, their families, & the professionals who work with them



### RESEARCH

Encouraging and supporting research into a wide range of issues related to Williams syndrome

